

Remarks

Reconsideration and reversal of the rejections expressed in the Office Action of March 3, 2006 are respectfully contended in view of the following remarks and the application as amended. The present invention relates to a system for delivering gas at a predetermined rate of flow in the processing of semiconductor devices, which includes a flow controller having a diaphragm forming upstream and downstream chambers connected by a fixed orifice and means for delivering gas at a substantially constant pressure to the upstream chamber of the flow controller. The Abstract and Drawings have been clarified by this Amendment and Response.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Fenimore et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,329,966. The '966 patent relates to a system for delivering gas at a predetermined rate of flow, including a diaphragm type flow controller, a pressure regulator for providing a constant flow of gas to the flow controller, and a microprocessor controlled stepper motor utilizing an optical encoder to adjust the rate of flow of a gas leaving the controller without having to use a gas flow measurement device to monitor the flow rate. Note that the presence of at least one fin flow sensor, which monitors the rate of flow, is neither disclosed nor suggested by this reference. Independent claims 1 and 6 have been amended to include such a clarification, support for which is found at paragraph 16 of the specification as filed. Therefore, this rejection is overcome.

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully contended that the solicited claims define patentable subject matter. Reconsideration and reversal of the rejections expressed in the Office Action of March 3, 2006 are respectfully submitted. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if any questions arise during the course of reconsideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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